

# "No Idle Zone" Program Pledge Form



I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby pledge to myself and to my community that I will improve and protect the quality of air in my community by not unnecessarily idling any car I drive.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: (signature of another community member) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***To reduce air quality and health impacts,  
it is recommended that you idle your vehicle  
no longer than 30 seconds.***

The Washington State Department of Ecology has identified unnecessary vehicle idling as a contributor to air pollution and increased health risk in our state. Ironically, some of the areas where most unnecessary idling occurs is at schools by parents waiting to drop off and pick up their children, and in drive-thru lanes, with our children in the car.

To illustrate this point, consider this - just one vehicle dropping off and picking up one child at one school puts about three pounds of pollution into the air per month. In addition, idling consumes from ½ gallon to one gallon of fuel per hour, and uses more fuel than turning off and on your engine.

Locally, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, together with the American Lung Association of Washington, Spokane office, is facilitating the “No-Idle Zone” program in communities and schools throughout Spokane County. Liberty Lake City Council has voted to make our city a “No-Idle Zone City.”

“No-Idle Zone” signs will be posted at various locations around the city. I encourage you to become an active participant in improving air quality and reducing health risks by eliminating unnecessary idling not only in school zones, but also at drive-thru lanes, waiting for a train, and while “just running in for a quick stop...” **The simple, but critical, change in behavior of idling your vehicle no longer than 30 seconds, will drastically improve the air quality** in our neighborhoods and the air our children breathe.

Thank you for your support of this program.



## **Facts about vehicle idling. Did you know?**

- Each of us takes 20,000 breaths each day.
- The average American breathes 3,400 gallons of air a day.
- Children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults.
- Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of air pollution in Washington State.
- Idling consumes from ½ gallon to 1 gallon of fuel per hour and wastes more fuel than turning of your vehicle engine off and on.
- Diesel exhaust contains microscopic soot, a particle that is about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence.
- Diesel exhaust contains both very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as “hazardous air pollutants” under the Clean Air Act.
- Idling buses tend to accumulate diesel exhaust, which may be retained during the ride depending upon bus ventilation rates.
- ***It is more efficient to turn off most warmed-up vehicles than to idle for more than 30 seconds.***
- ***A single vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at one school puts three pounds of pollution into the air per month.***
- Carbon monoxide, found in vehicle exhaust, reduces the ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues.
- Asthma is reaching epidemic proportions in Washington. More than half a million Washington residents have been diagnosed with asthma, including one out of every 10 children in the state.
- ***Children’s asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust.***
- Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children and the largest cause of school absences.
- The risk of death is 17% higher in more polluted areas.

*For more information on these and other statistics and sources, contact Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency at 477-4727 or [www.spokanecleanair.org](http://www.spokanecleanair.org)*

***Please consider turning your car off if idling unnecessarily for more than thirty seconds.***